

# West Cassia

Soil and Water Conservation District



1361 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street

Burley, ID 83318

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SWCD Board Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 11:00

## Mission Statement

*To encourage responsible natural resource management and to implement conservation goals which improve air, soil, and water quality while improving wildlife habitat.*

*To educate both youth and adults about our local conservation practices and needs.*

## Top Priorities and Resource Concerns

### 1. Water Resource

Encouraging good conservation practices which save water and reduce soil erosion, conversion to sprinkler systems, promote benefits of crop residue, conservation tillage, and cross slope farming practices. Make efforts to improve the Nitrate priorities within the area.

### 2. Rangeland

Education and encouragement of brush control, range seeding, pest control, fire control practices, drought concerns, stock water improvements, and planned grazing systems.

### 3. Direct Seed and Cover Crops

Encouraging farmers and landowners to implement new and innovative farm practices. Educate landowners on the benefits of such practices. Have available a Direct Seed drill for landowners to use to run test plots.

### 4. Education

Education is a huge benefactor to the districts. By educating students young, it helps them to understand the importance of being good stewards of the land. Another byproduct of educating children is that information is then passed on to the parents.

## FY2015 Revenue 7/1/14-6/30/15

\$ 8,500.00	Base Allocations- ISWCC
\$ 4,384.56	Match Funding-ISWCC
\$ 830.00	Capacity Building Funds-ISWCC
\$ 5,00.00	Cassia County
\$ 1,330.66	Project- Tree Sale (per district)
\$ 500.00	Administrative Funds
\$ 225.00	Newsletter Advertiser payments
\$ 1,000.00	Operating Funds-ISWCC
\$ 338.60	Other Income

**\$ 23,108.82 TOTAL**

## District Operations Accomplishments

### Seedling Tree Sale

In early spring, West Cassia, Minidoka, and East Cassia SWCD's held their annual Tree Sale, selling 2,500 seedling trees to community patrons and landowners around the area. Hybrid and Lombardy poplars were popular choices this year as a few new windbreak projects were started in the area. This is a great opportunity for the districts to reach out to the community and promote good conservation practices. This additional income to the districts helps to further incorporate good conservation practices and programs in the area.

### Website

In January the districts built a website that includes West Cassia, East Cassia, and Minidoka Districts. The website was very beneficial to the seedling tree sale this past year as customers were able to directly print off order forms and get information all the seedling varieties directly off the webpage. The website also included Direct Seed program information, Educational programs, information on the three boards, and districts operation. The districts are still working on including more information on the website.

### Operations

In February, board supervisors met with elected Cassia County Commissioners to review the proposed budget and activities as a basis for requesting county funding. The districts also completed yearly reports due to ISWCC as well as completed a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

### Summer Picnic

In July, West Cassia, East Cassia, and Minidoka SWCD's, held a Summer Picnic and invited County Commissioners to attend. Minidoka SWCD hosted the picnic this year at the Paul Splash Park. College Scholarships were awarded, NRC camp scholarship recipients reported on camp activities, and Brian Kossman spoke about the district's Direct Seed Drill program.

### Awards Banquet

An Awards Banquet was held in March to honor landowners and farmers. West Cassia presented an award to Kerry Bowen, Cooperator of the Year. Richard Kunau was awarded his 10 year service pin.

### Meetings

Supervisors and district employees attended the Spring and Fall Division IV meetings. District reports were presented and districts learned about proper meeting procedures. Richard Kunau was made the Chairman of Division IV at the Fall Division meeting. Supervisors attended IASCD annual conference held in Boise.

### Projects

West Cassia, East Cassia, and Minidoka SWCD's have been working jointing to promote the Direct Seed Drill program. Last year the districts were awarded a Conservation Grant that allowed the districts to purchase two direct seed drills. The districts collaborated to bring a program to the area that would promote good conservation practices. The districts have been renting both drills out this year to landowners for test plots, as well as have been offering a cover crop seed rebate to landowners who purchase cover crop seed up to 40 acres. 56 people attended the Cover Crop Tour hosted by the districts this fall. Landowners were able to see cover crop and direct seed drill practices implemented. 66 people attended the Direct Seed Drill workshop held in February of this year. The districts would like to specifically thank the County Commissioner's for use of the Commissioner Chamber's to host the event.

### Education and Outreach

West Cassia awarded two college scholarship of \$500.00 each to high school seniors who will be majoring in an agricultural related field. The district awarded 50.00 in Poster Contest awards. An award of \$100.00 was given to the 1<sup>st</sup> place Speech Contestant. Donations were also given to support Envirothon, Forestry Contest, KYG, NRCS, and the IASCD Conference. West Cassia Supervisors volunteered time to help with the Land and Soil Evaluation Event held on October 13<sup>th</sup> this year. Both East and West Cassia SWCD's host the event

each year. Together, East and West Cassia had a booth display at the local fair educating patrons on the benefits of windbreaks and information on the seedling trees the districts have available for purchase every spring. Information on the Direct Seed Project was also displayed. The Direct Seed Drills were on display in both the Cassia and Minidoka Fair parades. West Cassia and East Cassia together distributed three newsletters to the community, educating locals on different conservation efforts. The districts are currently looking into updating their mailing list to ensure that the new landowners are receiving the newsletters.

### Future Projects

The district will continue to work jointly with NRCS and the ISWCC to promote conservation programs.

In January 2016, West Cassia, East Cassia, and Minidoka will host a direct seed drill workshop. There will be two nationally known keynote speakers at the workshop; Brendon Rocky & Keith Berns. Landowners will also be getting pesticide credit for attending the workshop.

The districts are currently working on putting together a Local Working Group. This committee would meet to discuss priority concerns in the area and to give suggestions as to ways to help get programs and conservations practices started in this area.

In Spring 2016 the annual Seedling tree sale will be held.



### West Cassia SWCD Board of Supervisors

Richard Kunau	Chairman	137 N Hwy 77 Declo, ID 83323	richardkunau@gmail.com
K Wells	Vice Chairman	2073 Poleline Road Oakely, ID 83346	gkwells@pmt.org
Kathy Poulton	Treasurer	2200 S 605 W Oakley, ID 83346	poukathy@pmt.org
Brent Stoker	Member	745 E 500 S Burley, ID 83318	bstoker@safelink.net
Ken Black	Member	352 S Hwy 27 Burley, ID 83318	ken.nina@msn.com

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**PERFORMANCE  
REPORT  
CERTIFICATION**

**DISTRICT:**

West Cassia SWCD

**FOR YEAR:**

2015

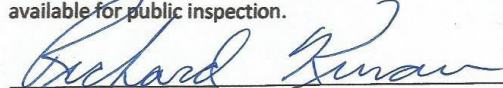
**DUE :**

December 20, 2015

**CERTIFICATION**

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Performance Report is true and accurate, and further submit said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Performance Report shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.



Board Supervisor Signature

Richard Kunaw

Printed Name

12-8-15

Date

678-1225 X100

District Telephone

ewcsuwcde@pmt.org

District Email Address

**FOR SWC USE ONLY:**

**DATE OF CONFIRMATION:**